

Information Services Board Briefing Paper on the Washington State Enterprise Architecture Project

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Description

The Department of Information Services (DIS) will provide a project status update and describe actions undertaken to date for the Washington State Enterprise Architecture Project. The ISB has developed and maintains a set of policies and portfolio practices designed to promote and facilitate electronic information sharing and access. The Enterprise Architecture effort continues to build upon these policies.

Background

Washington State government is committed to the effective and efficient delivery of services to constituents and businesses. To this end, government services need to be provided from the perspective of a cohesive, single state enterprise. The opportunity exists to align executive leadership, business goals, and technological strategies across the diverse set of business functions and individual organizations. An enterprise strategy and architecture helps reduce red tape, minimize redundancies, and optimize service delivery.

An enterprise architecture is a business tool that helps manage the complexity and change of government; it is not just an information technology (IT) tool. It establishes the roadmap for the Washington State government enterprise to achieve strategic business results.

The state-level enterprise architecture requires a common vision and framework. The vision defines the core business needs and strategies that organizations share. The architecture creates a common framework that enables each organization to integrate with and across "communities of interest" thus enabling the state to harness its organizational assets and information.

Enterprise architecture is a business tool to:

- Develop and implement a shared enterprise vision and architecture framework
- Guide strategic choices
- Manage the state's resources as assets within its portfolio of investments
- Promote unified state policies and shared IT services and infrastructure
- Extend business linkages between Federal and local jurisdictions
- Manage organizational and technological change and complexity
- Facilitate cross-organizational analysis
- Identify duplicative investments, gaps, and opportunities for collaboration

Status

A multi-agency work group has been formed consisting of the Chief Information Officers (CIO) and executives of the following:

- Administrative Office of the Courts
- Employment Security Department
- Department of Labor & Industries
- Department of Social & Health Services

- Department of Information Services

This group of agencies is working to:

- Create Washington State's shared set of business goals – the vision
- Establish a state enterprise architecture governance model
- Acquire a vendor(s) to assist in building the Washington State Enterprise Architecture with a focus on aligning its business goals and IT strategies

During the next 90 days the work group team will initiate the following activities:

- Project startup
- Awareness training for the State's CIO Roundtable, agency business leaders, and agency IT professionals
- Establish connections with the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) project on Enterprise Architecture
- Develop connections and understand the relationships with the Federal Government Enterprise Architecture efforts (NOTE: Federal agencies are required to develop and maintain architectures as a means of integrating agency business goals and IT. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requires that all agency IT projects fit into the government-wide enterprise architecture.)
- Determine acquisition strategy for outside assistance
- Establish linkages with the Priorities of Government work in Washington
- Determine what linkages may exist between the DOP Civil Service Reform/Collective Bargaining human resource systems and Washington State Enterprise Architecture

Issues

- There are no issues to report.

Recommendation

ISB oversight staff recommends that the ISB continue to receive periodic reports on this project and provide continued strong support for statewide architecture related activities.